

Claims

1. A method for making an article comprising at least one piece of sheet-form melamine foam having a thickness which is sufficiently small to exhibit flexibility and no flexural elasticity, wherein a melamine foam block (40) is cut by peeling into a strip having a thickness which is sufficiently small to exhibit flexibility and no flexural elasticity, and wherein the article is made using at least one piece of sheet-form melamine foam derived from this strip.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 for making an article having two opposing main free faces with a total thickness which is sufficiently small to exhibit flexibility and no flexural elasticity, wherein at least one layer, known as the reinforcing layer (2; 2'; 4; 4') is attached to each piece of melamine foam (2; 2'), so that at least one of the main free faces of said article has a scouring free face (3; 3') formed at least in part by at least one piece of melamine foam (2; 2').
3. The method as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said melamine foam block is cut by peeling into a strip having a thickness of less than or equal to 1 mm.
4. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said melamine foam block is cut by peeling into a strip having a thickness of approximately 0.8 mm.
5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein each piece of melamine foam is attached to at least

one reinforcing layer so as to obtain a melamine foam layer having a main face which defines a scouring free face of the article and, superimposed on the melamine foam layer, a reinforcing layer of this type having a main face that
5 defines the other free face of the article.

6. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the reinforcing layer is a layer of melamine foam.

10 7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the reinforcing layer (4; 4') is made of a material that is different from a melamine foam and is adapted to have tear strength higher than that of the melamine foam (2; 2').

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8. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein an article is produced, of which at least one of the main free faces is an absorbent free face formed at least in part by at least one piece of absorbent material.

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9. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein an article having at least one reinforcing layer (4; 4') is produced from an absorbent material.

25 10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein an article is produced, which comprises a layer of melamine foam (2) having a main face defining the scouring free face (3) of the article and, superimposed on the melamine foam layer (2) and made of an absorbent material,
30 a reinforcing layer (4) having a main face defining the absorbent free face of the article.

11. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 10,
wherein the opposing main free faces are both scouring
faces (3') and are formed by two distinct layers of
melamine foam (2') between which at least one reinforcing
5 layer (4') is interposed.

12. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11,
wherein an article having a total thickness of less than
5 mm is produced.

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13. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12,
wherein an article having a total thickness of
approximately 0.85 to 2 mm is produced.

15 14. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5
and 7 to 13, wherein each reinforcing layer (4; 4') is
produced from a fibrous material mainly containing fibers
selected from: cellulose fibers, natural textile fibers,
synthetic textile fibers.

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15. The method as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5
and 7 to 13, wherein each reinforcing layer (4; 4') is
produced from a material selected from: a cellulose
nonwoven, a viscose nonwoven, a perforated cotton nonwoven,
25 a polyamide knit, a cotton gauze, a polyurethane foam, a
polyethylene foam.

16. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15,
wherein at least a portion of the thickness of said article
30 is impregnated with a liquid composition before being
packaged.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the liquid composition used is selected from: a detergent, a solvent, a bacteriostatic and/or bactericidal disinfectant composition, water or a mixture thereof.

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18. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the liquid composition used is selected from: a moisturizing solution, a soap, a deodorant, a perfume, a make-up removing composition, an emollient, an ointment, an antiseptic, 10 water, hydrogen peroxide solution or a mixture thereof.

19. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein a solid composition capable of dissolving in the presence of a liquid so as to be able to release an active 15 agent is incorporated into at least a portion of the thickness of said article.

20. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein said article is wrapped in an individual or 20 collective impermeable packaging.

21. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20, wherein the various layers of said article are laminated in pairs by means of an intermediate heat-activatable adhesive 25 film.

22. An article comprising at least one piece of sheet-form melamine foam having a thickness which is sufficiently small to exhibit flexibility and no flexural elasticity.

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23. The article as claimed in claim 22 comprising two opposing main free faces having a total thickness which is

sufficiently small to exhibit flexibility and no flexural elasticity.

24. The article as claimed in either claim 22 or claim 23,
5 wherein

- at least one of the main free faces is a scouring free face formed at least in part by at least one piece of melamine foam (2; 2'), and

10 - wherein it comprises at least one layer known as the reinforcing layer (2; 2'; 4; 4') associated with each piece of melamine foam (2; 2') remote from the part of the scouring free face (3; 3') formed by this piece (2; 2').

25. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 24,
15 wherein at least one of the pieces of melamine foam (2; 2') has a thickness of less than or equal to 1 mm.

26. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 25,
wherein at least one of the pieces of melamine foam (2; 2')
20 has a thickness of approximately 0.8 mm.

27. The article as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 26,
wherein at least one of the main free faces is an absorbent free face formed at least in part by at least one piece of
25 absorbent material.

28. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 26,
wherein it comprises a layer of melamine foam having a main face defining a scouring free face of the article and,
30 superimposed on the layer of melamine foam, a reinforcing layer having a main face defining the other free face of the article.

29. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 28, wherein the reinforcing layer is made of melamine foam.

30. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 28,
5 wherein the reinforcing layer (4; 4') is made of a material
which is distinct from a melamine foam and is adapted to
have tear strength that is higher than that of melamine
foam (2; 2').

10 31. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 30,
wherein the opposing main free faces (3') are both scouring
faces and are formed by two distinct layers of melamine
foam (2') between which at least one reinforcing layer (4')
is interposed.

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32. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 31,
wherein it has a total thickness of less than 5 mm.

33. The article as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 32,
20 wherein it has a total thickness of approximately 0.85
to 2 mm.

34. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 28
and 30 to 33, wherein each reinforcing layer (4; 4') is
25 produced from a fibrous material mainly containing fibers
selected from: cellulose fibers, natural textile fibers,
synthetic textile fibers.

35. The article as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 28
30 and 30 to 33, wherein each reinforcing layer (4; 4') is
produced from a material selected from: a cellulose
nonwoven, a viscose nonwoven, a perforated cotton nonwoven,

a polyamide knit, a cotton gauze, a polyurethane foam, polyethylene foam.

36. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 35,
5 wherein at least a portion of its thickness is impregnated
with a liquid composition before being packaged.

37. The article as claimed in claim 26, wherein the liquid
composition is selected from: a detergent, a solvent, a
10 bacteriostatic and/or bactericidal disinfectant
composition, water or a mixture thereof.

38. The article as claimed in claim 37, wherein the liquid
composition is selected from a moisturizing solution, a
15 soap, a deodorant, a perfume, a make-up removing
composition, an emollient, an ointment, an antiseptic,
water, hydrogen peroxide solution or a mixture thereof.

39. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 35,
20 wherein at least a portion of the thickness thereof
comprises a solid composition intended to dissolve in the
presence of a liquid so as to be able to release an active
agent.

25 40. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 39,
wherein it is wrapped in an individual or collective
impermeable packaging.

41. The article as claimed in any one of claims 22 to 40,
30 wherein the various layers are laminated in pairs by an
intermediate heat-activable adhesive film.